



15¢

APPROVED BY THE
COMIC CODE
AUTHORITYJUNE
NO. 222

BATMAN

HERE
THEY
COME!

ONE OF
THEM IS
DEAD...
BUT
WHICH
ONE?

DEAD TIL PROVEN
ALIVE

THE CLUE
IS ON THEIR
ALBUM COVER!

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

BATMAN and ROBIN

STORY: FRANK ROBBINS • ART: IRV HONICK & DICK GIORDANO

"DEAD... TILL PROVEN ALIVE!"

A TIME AT HUDDSON UNIVERSITY, WHEN STUDYING IS THE LAST THING ON STUDENTS' MINDS!...

TAY, KEERS -- THIS IS HO-HO-HO.
YOUR JOLLY GREEN DEE-JAY AT XJL--
WITH THE NEWEST POOP ON YE
GREAT "OLIVER TWISTE" MYSTERY!

DIG THE SEVENTH
GROOVE ON OUR BOY!
"SUMMER KNIGHTS" SPIN AT
78 R.P.M. INSTEAD OF 33--
TAKE IT OFF ON TAPE--AND
PLAYBACK AT 1-78 I.R.E.!

GLEEPITY--
BEEPIFY--
SLRP-P.P. . .

YE-AH, THAT'S WHERE
GLENNAN RAPS--"YAIN'T
GOT IT--IF THEY AIN'T
BOUGHT IT!" I'D KNOW
WIS VOICE AT ANY
SPEED!

EVEN DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS SWEPT UP IN THE
CURRENT CAMPUS FEVER AS THE PLAYBACK MOVES AT
ONE AND SEVEN-EIGHTH INCH PER SECOND...

SURE WAS A BALL,
SAUL -- TOO BAD IT'S
OVER!

HMM -- WHO ELSE
COULD GLENNAN
MEAN -- BUT
SAUL CARTWRIGHT?

6-395

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AT LAST, DICK THE GREAT SKEPTIC,
BREAKS DOWN! NOW DO YOU
BELIEVE SAUL'S DEAD?

THE "TWISTS" ARE COMING
TO GOTHAM CITY--MAYBE IN
A PARK SUBMARINE--TO
PROVE THAT SAUL IS ALIVE
AND WELL, AND LIVING
IN OL' LUNNIN TOWN!

"WOW!"
IF
"SAUL" IS ALIVE
AND IF ONLY
THE "TWISTS"
COULD
APPEAR
HERE AT
HUDSON U...

WE INTERRUPT
WITH A LATE
BLAST!

AS DICK GRAYSON
I HAVE TO PLAY IT
COOL, BUT AS
ROBIN -- I'M
REALLY ATTRAPPED
BY THIS
MYSTERY!

LATER, AT
WORLTY
FOUNDATION,
WHERE
BRUCE
[BATMAN]
WAYNE HANDLES
HIS "COVER"
ENTERPRISES...

AS A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER
IN EPEN RECORDS, THIS
PUBLICITY HAS BEEN BOOM
BUSINESS, BUT AS BATMAN--
I DON'T WANT TO BE PARTY
TO A HOAX!



AS DICK RELAYS HIS CLASSMATES' REQUEST...

I DON'T LIKE TO
INFLUENCE-PEDDLE,
FELLAS-- BUT I'LL GIVE
IT A TRY!

I'D LOVE TO, DICK--
BUT YOU KNOW THE
FOUR "ORPHANS"
ARE AN INDEPENDENT
BUNCH! THEY DON'T
"PUSH" EASILY...

COULD YOU
INVITE THEM
TO BE YOUR
GUESTS WHILE
THEY'RE IN
GOTHAM?

THEN, GIVE ME A CRACK AT
PERSUADING THEM I'LL
COME DOWN SPECIAL FOR
THE WEEK END --

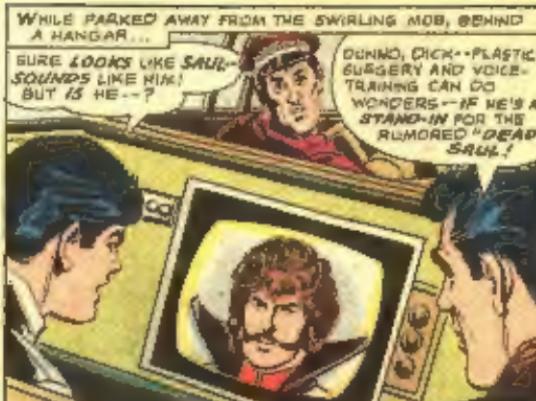
IT'LL MEAN
RE-OPENING
WAYNE MANOR--
NO ROOM HERE
IN THE PENTHOUSE
FOR THOSE MAD
MOSSES! OKAY, WILL
DO --

THERE'S AN ADDED INCENTIVE
WITH THE "TWISTS" UNDER
ONE ROOF -- AS BATMAN, I
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO SPOT WHETHER
SAUL IS A
PHONY!

T-DAY! PANDEMOMIUM
BEGINS AT GOTHAM
AIRPORT AS THE
ELUSIVE TWISTS
MAKE THEIR FIRST
PUBLIC APPEARANCE
IN OVER A YEAR...

EEEEEE! HERE
THEY COME! ORPHANS--
WE LUV YA -- AND
SAUL'S MEMORY!

STAY CLOSE
TO YOUR TV-
SCREENS, FOLKS!
OUR ZOOM-LENS
BRINGS YOU -- LIVE--
A FEAR-BY-PORE
CLOSEUP OF THE
ONE AND ONLY...



AS A PROTECTIVE POLICE CORDON LEADS THE HARRIED TWISTS THROUGH THEIR ARDENT FANS...

WHICH WE MAY FIND OUT
SOON. DICK! COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS EXTENDED
MY INVITATION TO THEM...



AFTER RUNNING AN ADORING SCREAMING GAUNTLET--THEY ENTER THE SERENITY AND QUIET OF STAO WAYNE MANOR...

COO! POSH LIME BUCKIN'AM PALACE, EH, LADS?

GLENNAH, YOU ALWAYS WERE A PUSH-OVER FOR POSH! WEREN'T HE, HAL?

HO! AND YOU'RE SUCH A HAVEN FOR AUSTERITY, BENJI? RIGHT, SAUL?

EEEEE-R! REMINDS ME OF A BLOODY-MAUSOLEUM!



FUNNY REACTION? THESE BOYS COULD BUY BUCKINGHAM PALACE!

SAUL TALKS LIKE HE'S JUST RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!

FORGIVE THE PUT-DOWN ON YOUR PIGS, MR. WAYNE--DICK! BUT THIS "DEATH-ROLE" MY NUTTY FANS HAVE DREAMED UP, IS GETTING TO ME!

SO LET'S CLEAR THE RECORD, RIGHT NOW! WHEN MY THREE PARTNERS TOOK OFF FOR THE HIMALAYS A YEAR AGO, TO DO THEIR THING...

AND WHILE YOU SEEM THE REGULAR SORT--YOU MIGHT HAVE DOUBTS TOO!

IT WASN'T TO GO INTO MOURNING OVER MY "DEATH" IN A CYCLE ACCIDENT IN LONDON!



DID THEY EXPECT ME TO MAKE SOLO APPEARANCES WHILE THE BACKBONE OF OUR GROUP WAS AWAY?

I JUST DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT TO DREAM UP NEW ARRANGEMENTS AND STUFF, TILL THEY RETURNED!



WE GET THIS MESSAGE, SAUL--NOBODY'LL GET ON YOUR BACK HERE!

ALFRED WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS!

HE GAVE ME JUST WHAT I WANTED! C'MON, BRUCE--I'LL NEED YOUR ASSIST!

QUICKLY EXITING INTO THE SECRET BATCAVE ELEVATOR...



UP TO DISCOVERING THE TRUTH--IF THAT CHANDELIER, I BUGGED, PICKED UP HIS VOICE CLEARLY!

IN THE BATCAVE,
DICK SWITCHES
ON A TAPE
RECODER...

THE EAR CAN BE FOOLED, BRUCE--BUT PLAYING
SAUL'S VOICE BACK THROUGH THIS SOUND-
ANALYZER PRODUCES A SONOGRAM.
A VOICE-PATTERN PRINT
AS DISTINCTIVE AS A
FINGERPRINT!

BUT WHAT
COMPARISON
DO YOU HAVE...

THIS EARLY RECORDING
OF THE AUTHENTIC
SAUL CARTWRIGHT'S
VOICE--LOCK!

OUR PRESENT
GUEST IS A--
FRAUD! THEY'RE
BOTH--DIFFERENT!

DIFFERENT,
YES--BUT SO
IS THE
SOURCE!

THE--
SOURCE?
ONE IS A SINGING
VOICE -- THE OTHER
SPEAKING! THEY
WOULD HAVE
UNIQUE
PATTERNS!

LATER, AT DINNER...

PLANNING TO
RECORD OUR
DEATHLESS WORDS
FOR POSTERITY,
SAUL?

ON MY MINI-
RECODER?
UH-UH, ME, WAYNE--
THIS IS MY
INSEPARABLE
COMPANION IN
CASE OF SUDDEN
INSPIRATION! THEN,
I SING INTO IT!

SO YOU'VE PROVED
NOTHING! UNLESS--
YOU CAN GET SAUL'S
PRESENT SINGING VOICE!

THEN, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...

SAUL GOT
"INSPIRED"

SEVERAL TIMES
DURING DINNER-- HIS
TAPE HAS JUST THE
VOICE I NEED ON IT--
A SINGING ONE!

BUT IN CASE I SHOULD
BE SPOTTED--BETTER
THAT ROBIN TAKES
THE RAP!

HE DIDN'T EVEN
STIR!

NOW, WITH LUCK--
I CAN COPY THIS
OFF--AND REPLACE
IT WITHOUT SAUL
BEING ANY THE
WISER!

SUDDENLY ...

KHOK

HIS HEAD REELING,
ROBIN CLUTCHES
DESERPTELY BEHIND
HIM AT HIS UNSEEN
ASSAILANT...

...AND DRAGS HIM DOWN WITH HIM AS HE FEEBLY FIGHTS BACK...

LEGO--
BLAST YOU!

MOMENTS LATER THAT COMMOTION OUT HERE? WHAT CAUSED...

ROBIN?



AS BRUCE LIFTS THE LIMP FORM...

STILL BREATHING
GOT TO GET
HIM OUT OF
SIGHT BEFORE...

'HEY! WHO'S
TRIPPIN' THE
LIGHT-FANTASTIC
OUT HERE?
YOU, SAUL?

NOT ME,
GLENNAN--
I'M NO
SLEEP WALKER!
MAYBE HAD
BENJI?

CLOSE--BUT THEY
DON'T SPOT US!
THIS NEEDS THE
PRIVACY OF THE
BATCAVE...

SECONDS LATER...

WHAT HAPPENED,
ROBIN?

TRYED TO
GET SAUL'S
RECODER--
THEN SOMEONE
CLOBBED ME
FROM BEHIND!
I-I LOST!

MUST HAVE
BEEN SAUL--
WOKE AND
FOLLOWED
ME!

BUT WHY HIS DESPERATE
INTEREST TO GUARD
THAT RECODER?
UNLESS HE'S TRYING
TO HIDE HIS VOICE...

...THAT COULD PROVE
HE'S NOT "SAUL"?

THE NEXT EVENING AS THEY DRESS
FOR DINNER...

THEY ALL CAME DOWN TO
BREAKFAST LOOKING
INNOCENT AS LAMBS.
AND "SAUL" STILL HAD HIS
RECODER!



THEY MUST BE IN
CAHOOTS, DICK--BUT
THERE'S ANOTHER
WAY TO GET HIS
"SINGIN'" VOICE!

AS YOU'LL SOON
SEE ...

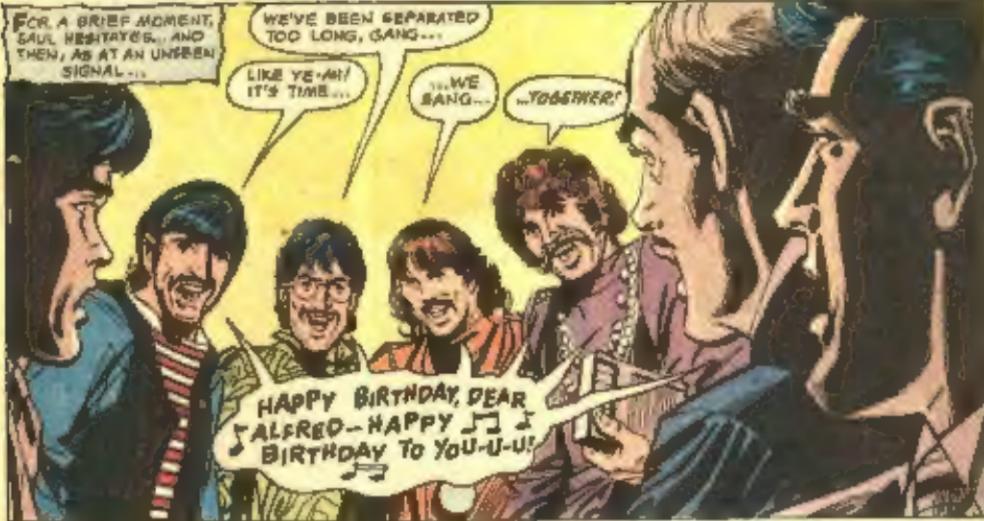
AFTER A CURIOUSLY TENSE DINNER...

EVERYONE REMAIN
SEATED--I HAVE A
SURPRISE!

ALFRED--WOULD YOU
TURN OUT THE LIGHTS,
PLEASE?



CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING



OH BUT SAUL - ALL MY
ENGINEERS HAVE LEFT
I WAS JUST CLOSING

DON'T NEED 'EM FRIEND
WE DO OUR OWN. JUST
LEAVE THEM KEY UNDER
THE ENTRANCE MAT -
WE'LL MAKE IT WORTH
YOUR WHILE

JUST THE
BREAK WE NEEDED.
ROBIN'S A MON
WE'RE SETTING UP
A PRIVATE RECORDING
DATE TO GET A
TAPE OF "SAUL"
SINGING!

DEACTIVATING THE BATMOBILE, THE
DYNAMIC DUO RACES AGAINST AN
UNKNOWN DEADLINE THEN PARKING
OUT OF SIGHT

UNDER THE ENTRANCE
MAT HE SAID

SIMPLER THAN
"PICKING" OUR
WAY IN,
BATMAN! WE
OPEN UP--SLIP
THE KEY BACK
UNDER THE
MAT



GOT THAT
IDEA FIRST!

NOW - WHILE THEY'RE
STILL BLINDED BY THEIR
OWN GUN-FLASHES!

... WE LAST
FURTHER, EIGHT
ON THE SITUATION!

I DIG SAY NO
MORE BATMAN--
WE TAKE 'EM
APART



LOOKS LIKE "SAUL"
HAD HIS OWN SURPRISE
PARTY WAITING FOR US

BUT HOW DID
YOU GROOVE IT
WAS A TRAP,
BATMAN?

THIS
KEY...
WAS THE
"KEY?"

DON'T PUT ME ON.
BATMAN! THE
NAKED EYE CAN'T
SPOT FINGER-
PRINTS AND
THOSE SHARP
THUGS ARE
WEARING GLOVES!
SO HOW?

TRUE, BUT WHEN THE
STUDIO OWNER LEFT
LOCKING THE DOOR
LKE THIS

HE AUTOMATICALLY HAD TO PUT THE
KEY DOWN LIKE THIS! WITH THE
GROoved END TOWARD THE
DOOR

BUT WHEN WE
FOUND IT IT
WAS REVERSED!
INDICATING IT WAS
REPLACED FROM
THE INSIDE!

SO YOU
KNEW
SOMEONE
GOT HERE
BEFORE
US

THE TWISTS HAVE A
PERFECT ALIBI-- THEY
WERE STILL HOME
WHEN WE LEFT!

SO SAUL MUST HAVE
HIRED THOSE
LOCAL KILLERS!

BUT THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE
WHO TALK-- BEIDES I
WANT IT FROM THE
HOUSE'S MOUTH

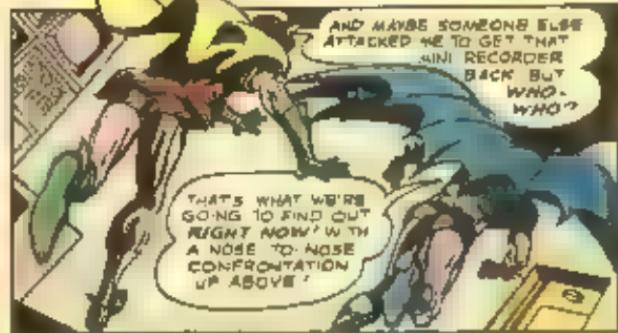
THEY'LL KEEP TILL
WE SEND THE
POLICE I'VE
ALREADY GOT
THE EVIDENCE I
NEED ON "SAUL"

YOU'VE GOT TO
BE KIDDING,
BATMAN! WE
DON'T EVEN HAVE
THE VOICE-
RECORDING WE
CAME FOR!

SPEEDING BACK TO THE BATCAVE

AFTER WE'D LEFT HERE I REALIZED WE DIDN'T NEED A SINGING VOICE ANYMORE BUT I HAD TO FOLLOW SAUL'S "BAIT" THROUGH TO BE SURE'

YOU FORGOT WE NOW HAVE THE TALKING PHONE BUGGING TAPE - AND THE FIRST TALKING TAPE FROM THE CHANDELIER - BUG WE COMPARE THEM



A SCENE OF APPARENTLY UNTRROUBLED AT-HOME BLISS GREETED THEM!

CHUCKLE THEIR LATE SHOW SURE BEATS THE BBC, EH, BLOKES?

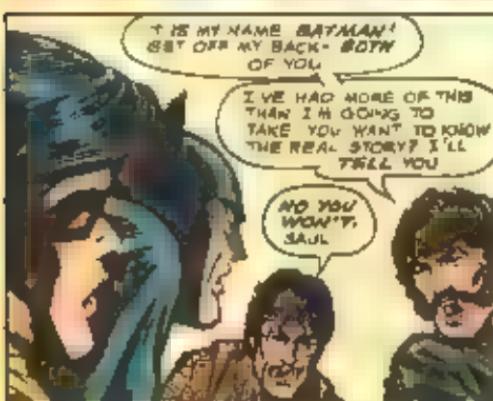
SAUL CARTWRIGHT!
IF THAT'S YOUR REAL NAME



IT IS MY NAME - BATMAN! GET OFF MY BACK - BOTH OF YOU

I HAVE MORE OF THIS THAN I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REAL STORY? I'LL TELL YOU

NO YOU WON'T, SAUL



NOT AFTER THE GREAT PANS I'VE TAKEN TO KEEP 'EM FROM FINDING OUT! THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD BY NOW!

BUT SINCE MY TRAP DIDN'T WORK THIS WILL!



NEVER THOUGHT
YOU'D FREAK-OUT
LIKE THIS
CHUMLEY

KICK-AK

BUT I WON'T
GO ALONG
WITH 'EM

HOWUCH!

SOMETHING
TELLS ME I
OWE THIS TO
YOU FOR LAST
NIGHT.

WHAT DID YOU JUST
CALL 'GLENNAN'
SAID?

CHUMLEY--HIS REAL NAME JUST
LIKE THIS IS REALLY PRITCHARD
AND GILBEY?

I'M NOT THE
PHONY
THEY ARE

WHAT'S IT?

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT
THESE LAOS ARE THE FRAUDS--
THE PUT-ONS! BECAUSE
GLENNAN SOB' BENJI
HAL MY GOOD OLD
BUDDIES

THEY'RE
DEAD!
KILLED LAST
YEAR IN A
CRASH OF A
PRIVATE
JET THAT
WAS TAKING
THEM TO
GROOVE
WITH THE
MYSTERIES
OF THE EAST

THEY'RE SOBE LIVING
BURIED SOMEWHERE IN
THE TRACKLESS SNOWS
OF THE HIMALAYAS!

I THOUGHT I COULD
KEEP THEM "ALIVE"
TO THEIR DEVOTED
FANS THE WORLD
OVER

BY RECRUITING THREE UNKNOWN LOOK
ALIKES TO STAND IN FOR THEM

SOME MINOR PLASTIC SURGERY
AND ALMOST A YEAR OF
COACHING - AND THEY
WERE GOOD
REAL GOOD!

BUT THE BIG TRICK WAS TO PREVENT
ANY WILD RUMORS OF THE
DEATH SPRINGER UP, AND
GETTING THE APPLEGANG

SO I DREAMED UP MY "DEATH"
AS A DECOY TO FOCUS ALL CURiosity
ON ME. THAT WAY WHO WOULD
EVEN BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT
ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED
TO MY THREE TEAM MATES?

AND THEN - THEY FLEW BACK
OUT OF THEIR INCOMMUN CADO
JUNKET IN A DUPLICATE
PLANE, RIGHT BACK INTO
THE HEARTS OF THEIR
DEVOTEEs!

I ONLY
TRYED TO
PRESERVE
THEIR IMAGE
BUT I HADN'T
FIGURED ON THIS
ONE WEAK LINK
CHUMLEY'S
GREED!

WHICH MADE HIM
GO TO ANY LENGTH
TO PROTECT OUR
FRAUDULENT GROUP.
AN THE FASTEST
INCOME HE'S EVER
SEEN IN HIS WHOLE
MISERABLE LIFE

I BELIEVE NOW THAT
YOU SET UP THIS
COCKEYED SCHMEE
WITH THE NOBLEST
OF MOTIVES SAU
BUT LIKE ALL DISHONEST
PUT ONS, I BACK-
FIRED!

YOU REALIZE NOW THAT THE WORLD HAS TO
LEARN THE TRUE STORY, SAUL. BUT IF YOU
FACE UP TO IT AND LEVEL WITH THEM
YOUR FANS WILL UNDERSTAND

AS WE DO
BESIDE IF
THESE BOYS
ARE AS "REAL
GOOD" AS YOU
SAY THEY ARE
YOU MAY HAVE
A NEW GROUP
AND A NEW
SOUND

AND SO LIKE THE LEGENDARY BIRD THE "PHOENIX" A NEW SMASH TRIO RISES FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD A WEEK LATER AT
HUDSON U



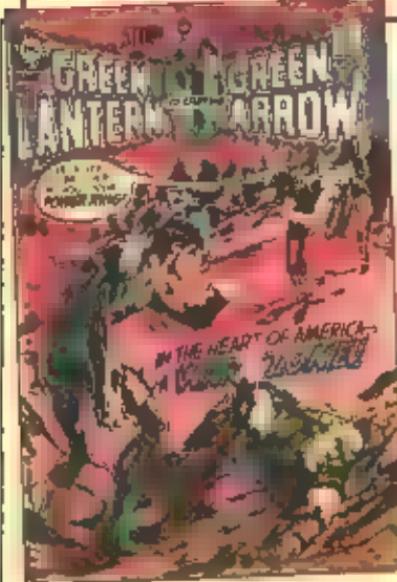
YOU DON'T DELIVER THE GOODS WE REQUESTED DICK - BUT YOU SURE CAME UP WITH THE BIGGEST "THREE" OF THE CENTURY

JUST SO
YOU
DON'T COME
UP WITH THE
BIGGEST HEAD,
GRAYSON

JUST
REMEMBER
YOU GIVE IT
ALL TO
BATMAN
AND ROBIN!



WOULD YOU BELIEVE..?



TWO
EXCITING
DC
GRABBERS
TO HOLD
YOU
**SPELL-
BOUND!**

ON SALE
TUES. APRIL 9TH - APRIL 16TH

IT'S 12 O'CLOCK
THE **WITCHING
HOUR!**



DO YOU WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST?

by JOE KUBERT

K-31-E

During my years as a professional cartoonist, I have been approached by many people (in addition to receiving hundreds of letters) who want more than anything else to become a CARTOONIST for COMIC MAGAZINES. Many of the letters included sketches or samples from these aspirants along with inquiries concerning TYPE OF PAPER to be used, PAGE SIZE, PENS, INK, etc. Of course, without this rudimentary knowledge, any attempt of creating a cartoon-drawing becomes extremely difficult and frustrating. In response, this page will describe some of the basic materials and information as applied to the comic industry in general.

PAPER & SIZE

Original art work is very rarely done "same size" as shown in printed form. The original drawing should be HALF AGAIN or TWICE the size of the reduced copy. 10" x 15" (border-size) is the dimension used by our artists.

Paper should be 2-PLY which is similar to a LIGHT CARDBOARD. Texture of paper can be KID FINISH (rough) or PLATE FINISH (smooth).

PENCILS

Preliminary sketches are done with a #2 or #3 pencil (lead). This enables you to erase for corrections without difficulty. PENCIL DRAWINGS are merely the first step toward a completed illustration.

ERASERS

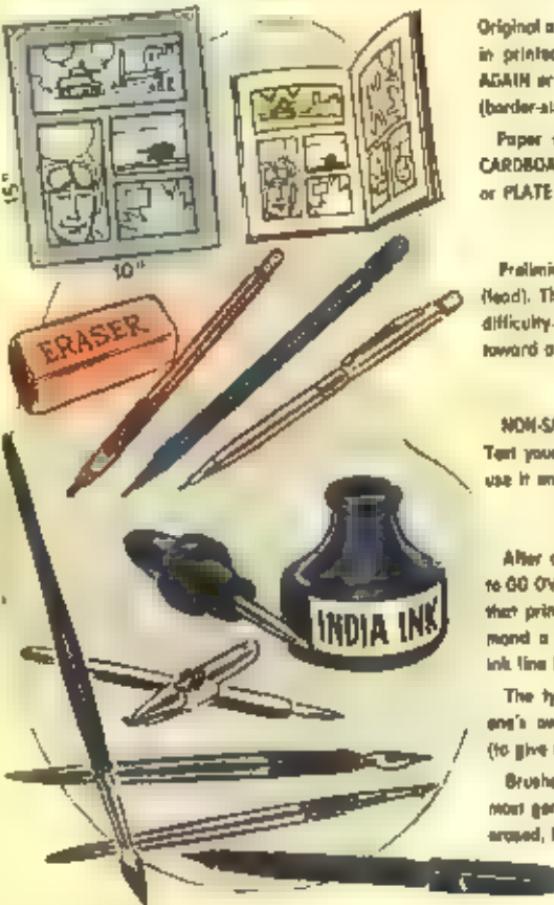
NON-SHEARING is the desired quality in an eraser. Test your eraser on a piece of scrap paper BEFORE you use it on a drawing.

PEN, BRUSHES, INK

After completing your pencil DRAWING, it is essential to GO OVER the illustration with INDIA INK. The reason is that printing processes used to produce comic books demand a CLEAR, SHARP, BLACK, LINEAR drawing. If an ink line is TOO GREY it may not reproduce.

The types of PENS and BRUSHES vary, depending on one's own personal inclination. Pens may be FLEXIBLE (to give a thick and thin line) or STIFF.

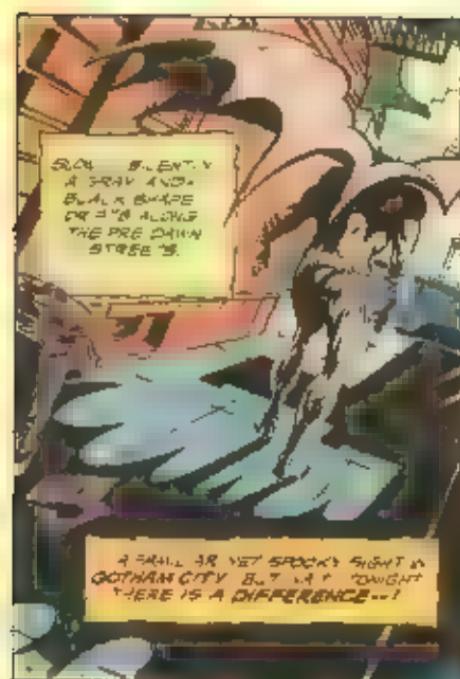
Brushes will vary in size (#3 water-color sable brush is most generally used). After "inking", the pencil sketch is erased, leaving only the pen-brush-ink illustration.



These are the PRIMARY ESSENTIALS concerning material and information needed to begin to learn about cartooning. Of course, the FIRST prerequisite is a STRONG DESIRE; CONSTANT PRACTICE; STUDY OF ART IN GENERAL, COMPOSITION and FIGURE-DRAWING in particular.

There are NO SHORTCUTS. Don't let your first attempts frustrate you—every professional cartoonist started in the SAME MANNER, as you are beginning right now.

Remember that all the combined talents of National Periodical Publications will try to encourage your efforts as much as possible—but it's really up to YOU! That is, IF YOU WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST!



AS WHEN STREETS ARE QUIET & ANT-SOUNDS THE

BATMAN

FIGHTS FOR GOTHAM'S SAFETY HE HEADS FOR THE DARK HEART OF KINGS WHO HOLLOW BLAME HIM FOR SIN RUE THE

"CASE OF NO CONSEQUENCE!"



THE VICTIM IS A DEAF
MUTE - HE HAS NO
LANGUAGE TO TELL
ME HE'S A

PHOTOGRAPHER!
HE STOLE WALLET
AND CAMERA
ALONE ON THE MEANS
OF A HOLD
UP BACK

MORNING POLICE ROUTINE
COULD PROCESS THIS IN
ALL IN... IS IT WORTH IT TO
PURSUE A
SMALL THE
MUGGER?



TRAINED EYES PAN ACROSS THE SCENE - AND A
CALL AT THE BENCH ARRIVES AT ON AT DEPT. OF POLICE



THE THIEF KNOCKED
SOME DEVELOPING
FLUID ON THE GROUND
AND STEPPED IN IT

DEE-O OF A GLOW FLOODS YELLOW
UNDER THE BATMAN'S ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT

WAIT
RIGHT
HERE!

AND A TELL-TALE TRAIL
FOLLOWS

THE MUGGER STOPPED
RUNNING HERE HIS
MOTORS ARE
CLOSER TOGETHER

SHOULD CATCH UP TO HIM
SOON IF MY FEET HOLD
OUT

UH-OH! TRAIL'S STARTING
TO FADE... FOR I
HEARING ONE

I'LL HAVE TO
TRAIL HIM
BLIND!

HE'S EITHER
HEADING HOME...
OR SOMEWHERE
TO SPEND HIS
LOOT. CHANCES
ARE...

THERE'S AN
ALL-NIGHT
POOL
HALL
NEAR
HERE!

I'LL GO THROUGH
THE BACK
ENTRANCE
TO SAVE A LOT
OF TIME...
AND
ENERGY!

CONTINUATION ON THE NEXT PAGE



TAKING OFF LIKE A
CRAZY RABBIT

WE'LL BE
OUT OF SIGHT
BEFORE I CAN
PEEK MYSELF
UP TO REACH THE
DOORWAY!

I DON'T HAVE TO RUN AS
FAST AS THAT HUMAN
HARE TO CATCH UP
TO HIM.



MAKE A MOON-BLOB

MADE IN U.S.A.

Moon-Blob

© DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT 1969



- IT ACTS ALIVE
- LOOKS LIKE PROTOPLASM
- IT'S A PLASTIC/LIQUID MOON CREATURE
- DEFIES GRAVITY
- CRAWLS OUT OF CONTAINERS
- DIVIDES INTO SMALLER BLOBS
- FREEZE IT-PUT IT INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION
- LIVES INDEFINITELY FROZEN
- COMPLETELY HARMLESS



Just Add Water

ORDER NOW

MOONGLOW - DEPT. 670
P.O. BOX 397
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11571

PLEASE RUSH ME ____ ORDER(S) OF
MOON-BLOB AT \$1.49 EACH I HAVE
ENCLOSED ____ TO COVER THE
COST OF EACH SET ORDERED.
(SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. NO C.O.D.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN ORDERS \$1.65
INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER.

RUN BLEAKER BILL - UP A
TREE DOWN AN ALLEY
NOBODY KNOWS THESE
5 FEET CAN BE 'EASY' YOU
C.

RUN BLEAKER BILL - AND DON'T
STOP UNTIL YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE
FAKED OUT BATMAN!

...A STRAIGHT LINE.

AHEEE!
HO-HO-HO-

I'M TOO POOPED
TO THROB
EVEN A
SINGLE PLUNCH

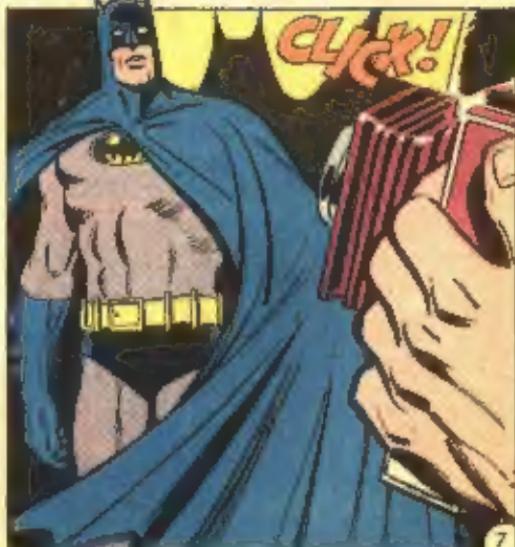


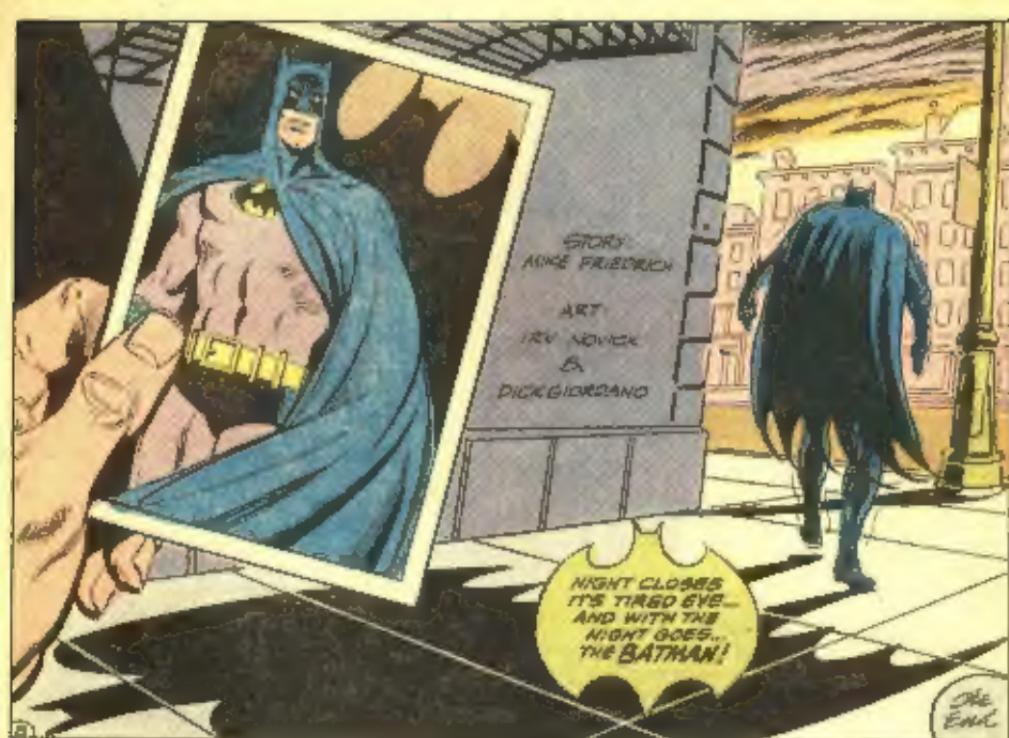
B.L.T. - TOO BAD, BLEAKER
BILL! YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
THE SHORTEST DISTANCE
BETWEEN TWO POINTS--



THE IRONIES
OF LIFE ARE
FIGHTING
ARE MANY.
BUT THE
AGONY WILL
TAKE HUMBLE
TO IT IS
LAST AND
BEYOND--
TO SEE
JUSTICE
SERVED,
ONLY







n.p.p. presents:
THE NEW!
THE DIFFERENT!
A G.I. YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!



LETTERS to the BATCAVE



Dear Editor:

I just bought *Batman* #219 and, having finished reading it only moments ago, feel I ought to write you about it. Why? Because it is undoubtedly one of the finest *Batman* comics I've read in years. My collection of *Detective* and *Batman* numbers over 200 different issues, but few of them excited me as much as "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" and "The Silent Night of the Batman."

"Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was written in the first person style, which immediately set it off as special; this style brought a sort of closeness to *Batman* and his thoughts that isn't achieved in the normal method of story-telling. The divided splash panel caught my attention right away, and my interest was sustained through the last panel. True, the bit about throwing the costume out as an "explanation" of panel 3, page 1 was a bit phoney... but that's my only complaint. Otherwise, I'd be content to have *Batman* stories of this calibre all the time. And, oddly enough, I didn't miss *Robin* at all! In fact, it just occurred to me as I write this that he didn't appear anywhere in issue #219!

"The Silent Night of the Batman" was totally different, yet captivating in every way. It carried with it the magic aura of good feeling that I associate with Christmas, a touch of sentimentality, the mysterious image of *Batman* that I love, and a charm that is not present in enough *Batman* tales. Neal Adams is perfect for drawing the *Caped Crusader*, and Dick Giordano's inks complement the pencils beautifully. Artistically, I couldn't ask for more on any comic strip.

A few miscellaneous comments: First, the idea of two stories in an issue is excellent, and quite fresh after years of 23-24 page yarns. I wouldn't want this to be the permanent format, but every few issues, it would be a nice change-of-pace. Second, I hope this "new" *Batman* will meet up with the *Joker* and some of his older costumed enemies. True, he is devoting his time to corruption and more down-to-earth crimes, but the *Joker* could be fitted into this world without much trouble.

—BILL SCHELLY, U. of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

(Next issue goes book-length again with Dennis O'Neill's masterpiece, "Carnival of the Cursed," an eerie tale that finds *Batman* on the hunt in New Orleans. No place for the *Joker* and/or his costumed cronies as yet, but they're bound to rear their ugly heads. —Editor)

Dear Editor:

Batman #219 proves that you weren't justinkling through your editorial hat when you promised us a newer, more exciting *Caped Crusader*. This issue pre-

sented your readers with the respective talents of Neal Adams, Irv Novick, Mike Friedrich, Frank Robbins, and Dick Giordano, as well as a 17-year-old DC Extra and a full 27 pages of reading material, excluding the lettercol. Match that, competitors!

Mr. Robbins' "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was very satisfying, with its intriguing delve into the world of politics. At last *Bruce Wayne* and *Batman* are being treated as two different individuals: Wayne is the man, and *Batman* is the legend. Very effective!

Meanwhile, Friedrich's "Silent Night of the Batman" was the most beautiful Christmas story I have ever seen published in the comic magazine medium. The individual vignettes were real and touching. The scripting and artwork presented terrific insight; the story's theme was inspirational. I feel nothing but admiration for a team of professionals like yourselves, who dare to break from the traditional super-hero mold to present such a meaningful and thought-provoking story. I reverently wish you all the best of luck and the happiest holiday season imaginable.

—STEVE BEERRY, Alma, Mich.

(Your wish for the happiest of holiday seasons was fulfilled with the overwhelmingly joyous reception accorded *Batman* #219. There were a few sour notes, but before we ring in on one, let us carry on with another blowing of our own horn. —Editor)

Dear Editor:

It seems like the *Batman* is here to stay! *Batman* #219 brought the much-maligned *Caped Crusader* out from under the heavy mass of garbage piled up upon the *Batman* legend by the poor quality stories of the fifties and early sixties and the transformation of the 1964 *New Look* into the 1966 (ugh) *Camp Look* which killed a good effort by you and your crew to put some life into *Batman*.

First, there was the cover and the cover story. The cover was a brilliant, if not misleading, work by Neal Adams. I should have known when the cover has such a scene on it, in which the hero is in a position which for him is impossible to get out of, that it should be treated as a symbolic cover.

Now, the cover story, "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was a nice, uncomplicated story. It gave *Bruce Wayne* a chance to show off his ingenuity by having the *Batman* and *Bruce* appear at the same time!

But, now, the second story! "The Silent Night of the Batman" was a definite move in the right story direction, I found it to be a very moving piece—*Alley Award* stuff, I'd say. The more-cynical-than-usual *Batman* reluctantly accompanying the Gotham police in the Christmas spirit while waiting for the inevitable call for action, unaware that his spirit is busy keeping the peace in old Gotham. It was a beau-

fiful statement and everyone involved with this issue should take a well-deserved bow.

—JAMES HAGGENMILLER, Jersey City, N.J.

Dear Editor:

Perhaps my hopes for the February *Batman* were too high. They were certainly soaring from the spell of the December *Batman*, which I regarded as nothing less than the best comic magazine ever to hit the market. So *Batman* is finally getting involved, I said. At last he has left his tiring years of super-solence to others, and is now again concerned with the common man in the streets. Again he is the man of a thousand faces, living with crime and fighting it at its roots. Finally he is renewing his origin and living up to his namesake, I said.

But suddenly came the February *Batman*. And, I said, what happened to the streets? Where is the common man, where even is nighttime, the time of mystery, the time of the bat? Where is the common criminal? Certainly none of these is to be found on an airplane headed for Washington, D.C. Politics on the national level is no place for a thief, for a mugger or a murderer. Then why is the *Batman* there, if his cause is now with the dangers facing everyday people?

It seems that Frank Robbins' idea for the story was that social activity involves political activity; that anyone, including the *Batman*, who fights for social justice will inevitably be drawn into the arena of politics. Perhaps this is true; but as a story featuring the creature of the thousand eyes, this idea is found wanting. Here we are asked to believe that because politics is the official record of the American dream, it is just as gripping, just as immediate as day-to-day life in the city.

But surely there is enough drama going on in the streets where the line is thin between life and death, where the fight concerns everyone who enters a city, to draw involvement for both the *Batman* and the reader. And surely anyone who has been to a political event knows the yawns hanging over every word, has felt the heavy eyebrows of the speaker. And surely Frank Robbins has imagination enough to pit nightman against night-fears without going into the overgrown complexities (such as a blown-up *Batman* suit flying over Washington D.C.) as he has created in the February *Batman*.

Robbins proved beyond doubt his imagination in the December *Batman*. My trust still lies with him; but the new *Batman* needs city streets—or at least darkness and mystery—in operate in, and involved stories will no longer work. So I leave my trust with Editor Schwartz to see that the *Batman* is guided back to the quiet excitement of the city.

—EDWARD BRODERICK, Arlington Hts., Ill.
(To negate the negative—at Johnny Mercer once advised us—accentuate the positive, as we promptly proceed to do next.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Batman #219 was an excellent issue. Your whole staff deserves congratulations. Congratulations. This is, in my opinion, the finest comic you have produced since the price rose to 15¢.

The cover depicting a scene from "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was superbly done by Neal Adams. Notice the lack of balloons, the simplicity of the idea, and the excellent coloring, not to mention the well-placed title. Good show.

"Death Casts the Deciding Vote" A good title. A good plot by Frank Robbins. I like the idea that the bulk of the story occurred in the confines of a plane, rather than somewhere in Gotham City, then back to Wayne Manor, then to the police station, then to a giant statue factory, and back to Wayne Manor for a lousy closing pun by Dick Grayson (glad he's gone). This is usually the pattern of a regular *Batman* story. Ah, but this is no ordinary story. Thank you for a fine story, Frank Robbins.

The art was excellent, as it has been ever since Dick Giordano joined the team, and Giella left. Giella's inks didn't do much for Novick's pencils. (Don't get me wrong! I liked Giella-inks when over Infantino-pencils.)

Now for the second story, I usually don't like two stories in one issue. It breeds incompetence. But this time I was delighted. "The Silent Night of the Batman!" Excellent title. Excellent cinematic art by the incomparable Neal Adams. I immediately sensed it was written by Mike Friedrich. He really knows what the fans want, being one himself for many years. Good work. I can only say that the reaction to this story will be one of ecstasy. I know mine was.

—ROB MEUER, Madison, Wis.

(For possibly the first time ever, there was unanimous approval of a *Batman* story! To round out this column, we offer a sampling of these praiseworthy comments.—Editor)

"The Silent Night of the Batman" epitomized the feelings of Gotham City toward *Batman*. It is because of stories like this that the *Caped Criminologist* has risen far above the multitude of comic magazine characters to become an almost legendary figure. I firmly believe that every major city could use a *Batman*,

—MIKE W. BARR, Akron, Ohio

As I write this, the days are growing steadily colder, there is talk of snow, Christmas decorations are appearing with amazing rapidity, and my feelings toward the trepidations of life are mellowing greatly. I have just finished reading your wonderful Christmas story, "Silent Night of the Batman." To a guy in a strange city, trying to get some minute amount of education pounded into his head, and facing hardships he never knew existed, it was a bit of inspiration that just can't be found anywhere else.

—JOHN WORKMAN, JR., Vancouver, Wash.

There just are not words to describe "The Silent Night of the Batman." It is, without a doubt, the BEST *Batman* story I have read in my 5 years of uninterrupted reading. It was drawn...superbly. I can't even state a "best" panel or page; they were all top-notch. Of the 36 panels in the story, only 9 needed "word balloons", proving that they were not necessary for this fine piece of work. If the story had been written to accommodate 15 pages (or more), I shudder to think of the consequences. It was perfect...just as it was...positively NO flaws. I wish that "The Silent Night of the Batman" would turn out to be non-fiction...soon.

—JEFF RISTINE, Ann Arbor, Mich.

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